

TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 1, 1999

Talent Historical Society, P. O. Box 582, Talent, Oregon 97540-9766 Telephone: 541-512-8838

TALENT WOMEN HONOR TEN OF THEIR OWN

At the 1st Annual "History of Talent Women" potluck brunch, 75 Talent residents met at the Talent Community Center to honor ten present women of Talent. The event, culminating Women's History Month, lauded the contributions of these ten women: Marla Cates, Alice Burnette, Alice Burns, Genevieve Holdridge, Poppie Beveridge,

Marian Telereski, Betty Smith, Hulda Sommers, Jannine Faucault and Mae Baldwin.

Four guest speakers were featured at the brunch. Rosemary Dalton, founder of the Dunn House, a shelter home for abused women, described that program. Carolyn Harris centered her remarks on the impact of the Women's Alliance. Yvonne Reynolds, Talent Historical Society Historian, focused the group's attention on the growing career of Talent singer Susan Lee Price, who most recently was a featured performer at the Ginger Rogers Theater, showcasing the talents that have made her international tours with her band a success. Lastly, Sue Waldron sketched the career of Dorland Robinson, an early Talent artist.

Exhibits of art and craft work by local artists and crafters were prominently displayed. Drawing attention to Talent Women of the Past was a photopanel which highlighted the contributions of area women. Among those so honored were Rose Maddox, country music Hall of Fame winner; Lida Childers, local historian; Ann Welborn Beeson; Lois Yockel; Mae Marty Lowe--long time Talent journalist; Susan Robison; Elizabeth Anderson; Ellen Wagner; and Carmen Rose Beeson. Ten other women were also noted on the photopanel display.

MORE APPLGATE COINS SECURED

Talent Historical Society created a three piece set of Applegate Trail Sesquicentennial commemorative coins to celebrate the blazing of the Applegate Trail into Southern Oregon over 150 years ago. All the first coins minted by the

Society were sold by last fall. In an effort to fulfill requests, the Society has ordered and received a second minting of the coins by the Portland Minting Company. The coins have arrived and are available through the Society. The set includes individual coins in bronze, silver and silver with gold lettering, each specially designed by the Portland firm.

The coins are 39 mm. in diameter (about the size of a silver dollar). The front of the coin pictures the figure of a man goading oxen from horseback, two covered wagons with the Upper and Lower Table Rocks featured in the background. The words "Southern Trail to Oregon" appear around the edge of the coin.

A map of the Applegate Trail graces the back of the coin and shows its separation from the Oregon Trail in Idaho and then traces its route through Idaho, Nevada, California and Oregon to the trail's ends near Dallas and Salem, Oregon. The edge of that side of the coin bears the words "Applegate Trail Sesquicentennial-- 1846-1996."

Prices for the coins are \$10, \$15 and \$25 respectively and may be procured by calling the Society at 512-8838.

This medallion was specially designed and minted by Portland Minting Co.



APPLGATE
TRAIL
SESQUICENTENNIAL

"There are only two lasting bequests that we can give to our children. One is roots. The other is wings." --Hodding Carter

WHEN YOU GO LEAVE A LEGACY BEHIND

Many non-profit organizations--churches, foundations, colleges, etc.--rely financially to some degree on donor bequests. Talent Historical Society is among these, and historical societies can, in some

ways be especially helpful to those individuals who wish to place historical items in a permanent, secure facility where the treasured items will remain available for future generations. In like manner, heirs faced with the need to save historical family artifacts and documents may want to consider placing such items with an historical society rather than chancing public storage, home fires, inadequate protection, or uninformed family members.

Here are some ways a legacy can be used to ensure some memorial. As the Viking poets so accurately said over 1000 years ago, "Few monuments are erected by strangers!"

- 1) Preparing a will keeps you in control of your belongs and assets. If one should die without a will or a comparable legal trust, assets and belongings may be lost--even to loved family members.
- 2) If a non-profit or charitable organization has made a difference in your life, consider making a bequest to that organization in your will.
- 3) Consider using tangible assets as bequests--art objects, legal documents, diaries, journals, literary papers, etc., as well as other more normal financial assets.
- 4) Have a non-profit organization named as beneficiary of an IRA, a pension, or on life insurance.
- 5) One can remember and memorialize loved ones with a gift to a non-profit organization.

Certainly, the Talent Historical Society would benefit from such bequests. Additionally, we can help you review your papers, books, maps, documents, diaries, letters, etc., to aid you in determining which of these have historical significance, and recommend appropriate placement with an appropriate entity--and occasionally, that entity will be the Talent Historical Society.

TALENT FAMILY DATA HOUSED AT SOCIETY

Twenty-eight Talent area families currently have on-going research files housed in the Talent Historical Society research archives. Since May

was Personal History Month nationally, the Society urges Society members and Talent residents (present or past) and individuals who have family historical records suitable for the family history archives to contact our Museum Curator & Registrar, Rosemary Bevel and discuss the sorts of data the Society seeks about Talent history and its families. She can be contacted through the museum office (512-8838)

These families currently have active research files:

Anderson	De Young	Slack
Applegate	Ford	Sleppy
Bagley	Foss	Smith, James B.
Bell	Gleim	Spencer
Beeson	Goddard	Stearns
Briner	Hanscomb	Talent
Brittsan	Kenyon	Taylor
Burnette	Newbry	Wagner
Carlisle	Roberts	
Childers	Robinson	

16 NEW MEMBERS JOIN SOCIETY SINCE MARCH

The Talent Historical Society welcomes sixteen new members to the Society who have joined the Society during the last three months. We welcome:

Al Alsing	Richard and Yolanda Nagel
Mae Baldwin	Robert Powell
Earnest and Jean Carlisle	Stuart Reeves
Paul and Nellie Creel	Helena Soderback
Nancy Fox	Scot and JoAnne Varley
Albert and Natalie Logan	joining as Meadow Brook Farm

Four types of annual memberships in the Society are available:

Business	\$50.00 annually
Family	12.00
Individual	8.00
Junior (School age)	5.00

Individuals or businesses wishing membership can send their requests to this address:

Talent Historical Society
P. O. Box 582
Talent, OR 97540

Renewal reminders are sent to present members as their current membership nears completion.

NEW VOLUNTEERS Five new volunteers--Nancy Fox, Ethel Thompson, Gia Roland, Margie Gleim, and Seeta Soderback--completed the Society's volunteer training program in April. The Society provides individuals who wish to volunteer their services to the Society with appropriate training and familiarization with the Society program efforts. The training program provides instruction in the use of museum facilities, the available archives, on-going projects, outreach efforts and similar other areas. Individuals interested in volunteering should contact the Museum during office hours.

For the quarter ending April 1, volunteers provided 944.75 hours of service to the Society. Current projects for which more volunteers are needed are listed here:

Talent Historical Walking Tour brochure
Elementary, Middle and High School Outreach Project
Talent Cookbook
100th Anniversary of the Community Hall celebration
Wagner and Talent High School reunions
Publicity releases
Historical transcription:
--oral history interviews
--Talent water use history

TALENT CLEAN UP DAY The Garden Club and the Talent Historical Society are sponsoring a Clean-up Day in Talent on Saturday, June 5, 1999. Volunteers are needed to help clean up City Hall, the Community Building, and

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED the Talent Post Office. Bring shovels, digging forks, clippers, and pick axes (if available). If you are interested in lending a hand to help beautify the grounds of our municipal buildings, mark your calendars for June 5 and plan to meet at 9:00 a. m. on the steps in front of the Community Hall.

MAP RESOURCES IN THE ARCHIVES

Among the objects, manuscripts and documents now housed in the Talent Historical Society are maps. Eight of these are of more than normal interest to those who love old maps maps. A copy of the Talent, Oregon Plat map is there. A photocopy of an 1874 map of Southern Oregon (Sorry, we do not have the original) is also of interest, as is an 1881 map of the Oregon Pacific Coast. While the Society has two maps of the Oregon Trail, one the 150th anniversary map of the Old Oregon Trail, printed in 1993--the Trail is considered to have been opened in 1843; the other is a color map of the Oregon Trail (date not determined). The most detailed map of these is and 1846 map of the Applegate Trail marking the path over the Greensprings from Keno roughly to the present reservoir, Emigrant Lake.

The Society has a combined map showing both the Applegate and the Oregon Trail, a 1997 reproduction of the 1910 Official Map of Jackson County. This map shows land ownership for the entire county--landowner by landowner. The Society's gift shop has copies of this last map for sale if an individual would like to purchase a copy.

SOCIETY ACTIVITY SINCE JANUARY

- Hired new Museum Director
- Conducted membership drive
- Created and approved new job descriptions:
 - Curator, Historian, Director, Office Manager and Board Members
- Held "History of Talent Women" Potluck Brunch
- Judged History Day competitions:
 - Paid student entrance fees
- Approved new Collections policy
- Collected 6 new oral histories
- Recruited two new oral historians
- Hosted the Jackson County History Museum Association
- Appointed Rosemary Bevel both Curator and Registrar
- Minted additional Applegate Trail medals
- Both the Vice-President and the Museum Director attended Museum Studies classes

ADRIANNA WILLIAMS ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL HISTORY FINAL

Adrianna Williams, Talent Middle School student, placed second in the state History Day Contest with a Junior Historic Paper. The competition was held at Willamette University in late April. Thirty-one Southern Oregon students competed. The first and second place state winners are eligible for the national competition. Jessica Pistone, Illinois Valley High School, won first place with her Senior Historic Paper. There were no other writers placing from Southern Oregon, although exhibits, group performances, individual exhibits, and individual performances had Southern Oregon students winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the state meet. Some 25 students from Jackson and Josephine counties placed. Adrianna can now gather with the national competitors on June 13-17 at the University of Maryland to compete at the top level of the National History Day Contest.

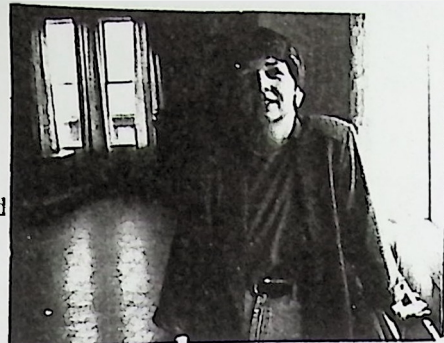
THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS:

**DE YOUNG SAND & GRAVEL
MEADOWBROOK FARM**

PLEASE SUPPORT BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT HISTORY PRESERVATION!!!

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINTS

As a founding member of the Talent Historical Society, Marla Cates finds tradition and continuity in the "sense of community, [the] people you live with and take care of. . . . It's a melting pot but with a healthy diversity of social and financial representation."



Talent Train Depot Groundbreaking

Marla Cates, who has spearhead the effort to rebuild the historic two-story Talent Train Depot, has raised about \$350,000 toward that end. Currently, Roxy Ann Rock of Medford has been working on the site, having submitted the winning bid to do the initial site preparation, which includes grading and installing a Rogue Valley Transit District bus turnaround. In order to complete the project which includes a city park, bicycle lockers, and a 50 space park-and-ride lot, Cates has estimated that an additional \$400,000 will be needed.

But at last groundbreaking and work has begun. Besides providing for the transportation needs for Talent residents who now will have a good place to park and ride to work or shopping, the planned depot will link the bus transport system to the railroad, if and when efforts to secure rail commuter service between Grants Pass and Ashland are successful. In this regard, stay alert. Amtrak is going to run a special passenger train through the valley later this month. Way to go, Marla!

New Community Museum Members Welcomed

The Talent Historical Society welcomes two of the newest members to the community-based historical museum association in Jackson County. The Jackson County Genealogical Society has just been accepted into membership, linking their personal family history efforts to the larger effort to present Jackson County history to a broader community.

Secondly, our neighboring city residents have organized the Phoenix Historical Society, and they will be a full-fledged member of the museum association next year. Their facility is located near the Phoenix Public Library. While efforts have been on-going in Phoenix for several years to establish a society, solid progress was made last year and the Phoenix Historical Society is now in full bloom, holding major exhibits, seeking members, etc. The Talent Historical Society Board extends its best wishes for continued success to the Phoenix Historical Society Board and members, and is pleased to extend a hearty welcome to them.

Dunkard Cemetery Headstones Photo Record Begun

Gia Roland, Photographer, and Rosemary Bevel, Curator, are in the process of making a photographic record of all the headstones in the Church of the Brethren Cemetery, locally known as the Dunkard Cemetery, which lies behind the Oregon Septic Systems business on Highway 99 just north of Talent. A Church of the Brethren sanctuary once stood on the business site. The *Ashland Daily Tidings* featured their efforts in a front page story on May 29.

Business Sponsorship Certificates Available

Talent businesses which hold business memberships with the Talent Historical Society will now receive an attractive display certificate designed by Office Manager Lisa Overton. Currently, only two Talent business have such memberships. The Society would certainly welcome other business members. At the present, Talent residents may look for those display certificates at Meadow Brook Farm and DeYoung Sand and Gravel.

MUSEUM ADDS TO OPEN HOURS

The Talent Historical Society Museum, located in the Talent Community Center, is now open twenty hours a week. Both the volunteer cadre, museum director Marion Angele, and office manager Lisa Overton are there during open hours to assist interested visitors. The open hours are listed below:

Tuesday and Wednesday 12:00 noon to 4:00 p. m.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m.

Sunday and Monday Closed

Letters, comments, or historical articles suitable for publication may be addressed to the Editor, Talent Historical Society, P. O. Box 582, Talent, OR 97540-9766

CORRECTIONS — BLUSH

1. Community Center Celebration is set for Sept. 11, 1999 During Harvest Festival
NOT Aug 14th.
2. Dorland Robinson was a Jacksonville artist, not from Talent.

TALENT COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING NEARS AGE 100 CELEBRATION SET FOR AUG 14

The Talent Community Center, located in the heart of downtown Talent, banked on two sides by the City Hall, the Fire Station, and the Talent Public Library, will be 100 years old this year. August 14 is the date that has been selected for the community-

wide celebration of the structure's service to the community.

First built as the Talent Elementary School in 1899, the building was remodeled sometime in the 1950s adding the section which now houses the Talent Historical Society. The building is one of the dominant visual landmarks of Talent, and after its service District 22's elementary school, the building served as Talent's first City Hall. Today it is a public and fraternal meeting facility. Its auditorium has served as a dance hall, the voting center for several precincts, and has hosted literally hundreds of public hearings and meetings of all descriptions.

When School District 22 re-organized in late 1899, construction of what is now the Community Center began. Three buildings were erected: one on South Wagner Creek (now the Poppie Beveridge home), one on Anderson Creek, and the one in Talent itself. The Talent building-- according to the *Ashland Tidings*, 13 July 1899--was estimated to cost about \$1500. The lots upon which the school and attendant playground stood, ten lots all told, cost the grand total of \$200. Construction of the building began in December 1899 and was used by the district for the next 12 to 13 years. At that time a brick school building designed to hold both the elementary school and the high school was built on the present site of Talent Elementary School.

The residents were in a bit perplexed about what to do with the now-vacant structure. Again the *Ashland Tidings* recorded the incident:

"What is to be done with the old school house just vacated for the new one?...Many are in favor of turning the grounds and buildings over to the Town of Talent to be used for public purposes, and the grounds to be parked and the buildings painted and put in good condition."

Two years later, at a special school election, it was decided almost unanimously to sell the property to the City for a Town Hall. . . and the Community Club considered the beautifying of the grounds. And for the next fifty years the building served as City Hall. In the 1960s, the concrete block building to the west of the Community Center was erected and the city offices moved from the building. During the 1970s, extensive remodeling was done, and most of it was completed by summer of 1976, although it wasn't until 1980 that the work was done to strengthen the bell tower and get the old bell, which had been cracked, welded so it could be rung. That community service was funded individually by then Councilman Jim Walker. On December 9, 1980, the community heard the bell ring for the first time in years.

According to the *Tidings*, while the residents were glad to have the bell back in service, the ringing debut was not exactly a great musical experience. According to one listener, describing the burst of sound, "it was more like the dull thong of a boat moving through the fog than the high soprano of singing angels or the rich tenor of bells in a cathedral." According to long-time resident, and editor of the *Talent News Flash*, Mae Lowe, "It was never what you'd call a fine bell and it hasn't changed much with time!"

Renovation of the structure has continued since then. The interior has been renovated. A wheelchair access has been provided. Long closed windows can now be opened. Most recently a new door has been added on the back of the building, one that historically was on the original structure. The celebration of this public building which has served as a school, a city hall, a polling site, meeting place and a wide variety of other functions will occur on August 14. Mark your calendar!

WATER PLANT TOUR SET FOR JULY 15 --FREE

The Medford Water Commission is sponsoring a free bus trip and tour of Medford's Big Butte Springs and other facilities on July 15. The bus will load at 9:00 a. m. at the Costco parking lot. A brief rest stop will be made at

Whisky Springs Campground and Interpretive Trail with an opportunity to follow a short footpath to the spring. Big Butte Springs is the next stop with a tour of the new disinfecting facility. Those going should pack something for a picnic lunch to eat at the Butte Falls City Park--the next stop. After the lunch the bus continues on to the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant. The tour ends at about 3:30 p. m. at the Costco parking lot.

The tour informs the participants about the seasonal treatment of water from the Rogue River during the summer when water needs are critical. Talent will soon be connected to this system so here is a chance to view Talent's coming water source first hand and learn about its management. Remember: bring your water, lunch, jacket and walking shoes. Interested folk may also call the Society office at 512-8838 to confirm seat availability and check to see if any last minute changes in the schedule may occur.

VOLUNTEERS EXPAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Under the able direction and training efforts of THS historian Yvonne Reynolds, two new oral history interviewers, Judie Bunch and Poppie (Rose Mary) Beveridge are now

ready to add their skills and talents to the collection of oral history from Talent area residents and former residents. Currently the Society's oral history interview collection numbers , of which have been transcribed and are available in both print and computer format for researchers and interested parties. Some interviews are still on the original tapes and are awaiting transcription. Any Society members or interested individuals who wish to volunteer time to transcribe the typed interviews should contact the Museum at 512-8838. We have voice mail, so a call to us can be made at any hour.

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